## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

- 24. (Previously presented) A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of subjecting a biological sample obtained from said individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using one or more PCR primers selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in said biological sample, to produce an amplification product comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising residues 681-812 of SEQ ID NO:10, wherein a presence of said amplification product indicating that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.
- 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a porA nucleic of *Neisseria meningitidis* present in said biological sample.
- 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is distinguished from another Neisseria species other than *Neisseria meningitidis*.
- 27-28. (Canceled).
- 29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to a detectable level but which do not facilitate amplification of a porA nucleic of *N. meningitidis*.
- 30. (Canceled).
- 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further including the step of using

one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization, wherein the probe comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

## 32-33. (Canceled).

- 34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).
- 35. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a human individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method comprising the steps of:
- (i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers comprising a nucleotide sequences selected from the group selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a porA *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* porA nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and
- (ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides comprising the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO[[#]] :3 having a donor fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

## 36-47. (Canceled).

48. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of detecting an isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, wherein the presence of said isolated porA nucleic acid indicates that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said isolated porA

nucleic acid **[[is]]** comprises the nucleotide sequence of an amplification product obtainable by nucleic acid sequence amplification using PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

- 49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, further including the step of using one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization, wherein the probe comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.
- 50. (Canceled).
- 51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).
- 52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.
- 53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.